

MINUTES OF GARRETT SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
SUPERVISORS' MEETING

April 18, 2017
District Office

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairman George Bishoff. Other supervisors in attendance were Smokey Stanton, Katharine Dubansky and Kris Enlow. Also in attendance were Chad Bucklew and Shaun Sanders. Carrie Colebank joined the meeting at 7:50 pm.

The minutes of the February 21, 2017 minutes were approved as distributed.

The following report of state funds for February 2017 and March 2017 was presented and approved:

Balance – February 1, 2017	\$ 4,227.08
Receipts – February 1, 2017 – February 28, 2017	0.00
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	\$ 4,227.08
Expenditures – February 1, 2017 – February 28, 2017	196.01
Balance – February 28, 2017	\$ 4,031.07
Balance – March 1, 2017	\$ 4,031.07
Receipts – March 1, 2017 – March 31, 2017	0.00
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	\$ 4,031.07
Expenditures – March 1, 2017 – March 31, 2017	0.00
³¹ Balance – March 31, 2017	\$ 4,031.07

The detailed report of expenditures for all accounts for the period of February 21, 2017 to April 18, 2017 and the Income Versus Expenditures report for the period of January 1, 2017 to April 18, 2007 distributed.

Chad reported on the progress of contracts for the EQIP Garrett Local Work Group. He reported that all preapproved contracts have been signed by landowners, and that contract packages are currently under review for contract approval. Chad mentioned that the applications selected for Local Work Group funding weren't necessarily the ones anticipated, due to a misunderstanding in the eligibility process. Chad described the ranking and contract approval process. Chad also mentioned that the EQIP Round 1 preapproved applications would be announced in the next couple of weeks. Chad updated the board on the NRCS budget situation. He mentioned that NRCS has been mandated to cut operating budgets by 17% for FY17. At this time, the budget cuts are not expected to have any impacts on project funding. Chad also discussed the Certified Conservation Planner Training scheduled for the first week of May. Chad mentioned that NRCS is revising its National policy on Certified Conservation Planners. Shaun mentioned that he read that there is discussion of outsourcing conservation planning through the private sector. Chad mentioned that NRCS will be having an Operation and Business Planning meeting at the WISP at the end of April. Chad also summarized a recent discussion with Rob McAfee regarding the potential to work with DNR

Fisheries and other partners to address livestock stream fencing needs through an RCPP proposal.

Discussion took place concerning the need for updating officers as a result of changes in board membership. It was decided to elect officers based on the calendar year. A motion was made by Kris, seconded by Smokey to elect the following officers for the remainder of 2017:

Chair: George Bishoff
Vice-Chair: Kristen Enlow

Treasure: James (Smokey) Stanton
Vice-Treasure: Katharine Dubansky

Shaun briefed the board on the planning meeting and tour that he and Carrie attended at the Turf Valley Resort where the summer MASCD meeting is being held. Shaun asked the board for their input for any agenda items, topics, or for speakers that they wish to suggest for the meeting. Shaun reported he was sending some information to Lindsay Thompson for a possible speaker relating to dairy issues.

Shaun presented the MidAtlantic Farm Credit Outstanding District Award Program Evaluation Guide prepared by Carrie for board signature. Carrie also completed a District Attendance Award application form. Shaun reported that Rebecca Kenyon-Sisler had submitted a well prepared application for Conservation Education Teacher of the Year and also he had prepared a MASCD Service Award, Outstanding Employee, for Carrie Colebank.

Shaun distributed copies of a news article in the March 13, 2017 addition of the Lancaster Farmer. The article was about the death of a farmer from toxic fumes from an animal waste storage structure. Shaun reported that the article was called to his attention by a farmer in the county who experienced a manure pit gas incident. He felt that since the "state" (MDA, NRCS, SCD's) were promoting manure storage, increased attention should be given to the danger or hazards of toxic gases associated with manure pits. He felt this was especially important when pits are agitated and being emptied. Shaun shared several articles about manure pit gas he printed from Michigan State Extension, Penn State, and Cornell web sites. Also he provided information on portable and hand held gas monitors available from a company in Virginia. It was suggested to contact the fire marshal's office at McHenry to see if they have any information.

Shaun distributed the projected budget and expense for the national envirothon and a follow-up email from St. Mary's SCD about the challenge payments.

Discussion took place concerning the Districts upcoming 75th anniversary in August 2018 and whether to have a cooperators dinner this year or concentrate on the 75 celebration next year. It was decided to hold a cooperators dinner at the Lions Club pavilion at the Garrett County fairgrounds this September in addition to the 75th dinner in 2018. Carrie will take the lead in organizing the dinner for this year. Shaun asked for ideas for a speaker and or for ideas for topics, Smokey suggested Climate Change. Also, it was decided to explore the possibility of obtaining outside or profession assistance in preparing a presentation for the 75th celebration using old forms of media such as: old black & white and colored photographs, 135mm slides, VHS etc.

Shaun reported that the District does not have a copy of the organizational charter from the Secretary of State office that has signatures on it. He has contacted Louise Lawrence about it and has also spoken to Tom Filbert and sent an email to Craig Neilson in an attempt to obtain a copy that has been signed by district and state officials.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.